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DXC 3536
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MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Development Branch, DFD

SUBJECT: West Coast Meeting on Suit and Parachute Configuration

In telephone conversation with General Flickinger, 3 June 1962, the undersigned was informed of the following:

1. Meetings of 31 May - 1 June 1962, between General Flickinger, Lockheed, Firewal, and Clark representatives; Operations group; [redacted] were both timely and productive. These meetings were concerned with proposed modifications on the pressure suit and parachute assemblies, whereby comfort and mobility of the pilots could be enhanced. Extensive studies were done on Chalk [redacted] with the original configuration and with various modifications.

2. The considerations were partially based on an attempt to avoid any changes which would add unnecessary costs and necessitate extensive new testing programs. By virtue of the fact that the testing program on the present configuration is about complete, General Flickinger held out to do only minor modifications which could be accomplished easily and in no way alter the basic configurations.

3. Conclusions of the meetings were these:

a. Two minor modifications were decided upon, neither of which shows a basic change over the present configuration: one - a more specific tailoring of the harness to the contours of the pilots themselves by moving the outer, heavy risers inward toward the center line; two - reduce the bulk of the pressure suit by removing a part of the insulating garment. There are some areas of pinching in the suit which the D. Clark representatives feel can be eliminated, thereby adding comfort in a backward reaching position. It is felt that by these modifications the predominant

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complaints of discomfort and lack of motion can be eliminated.

b. There was only one area of major difference of opinion.

[redacted] felt that the upper back pan could be narrowed without basically altering the internal design.

[redacted] was equivocal on this point. [redacted] and

[redacted] are of the opinion that this change cannot be effected without a major change in internal design, by virtue of which a new testing program would be indicated. General Flickinger took no definite stand on this, but suggested that if this change could be accomplished by rounding contours, reducing size etc. without altering the strength of pulleys, etc. or in any other way changing the basic internal design, thereby eliminating the need for a new testing program, everyone would be satisfied. An attempt will be made to effect these changes by the 21 June meeting.

4. Lou Schalk [redacted] participated in all the discussions, and General Flickinger also talked with them alone on several occasions. As a result of the meetings General Flickinger considers their attitudes considerably improved. The two pilots had an opportunity to see and hear personally the efforts, and the tremendous scope of the problems being encountered, by everyone concerned with providing a reliable and effective protective envelope and at the same time maintaining their comfort and mobility.

5. A follow-on meeting is tentatively scheduled for 21 June 1962.

[redacted]
Capt. USAF (MC)
DPD

DPD/SPB/[redacted] (5 June 62)

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cc: DPD/EO
DPD/SPB
Gen. Flickinger

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